This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating subjects having non-stuttering pathologies with impaired or decreased communication skills, comprising:

administering a frequency altered auditory feedback signal to a subject having (a) a non-stuttering non-fluency related language pathology while the subject is speaking ~~or talking~~ to ~~thereby~~ improve the subject's communication skills or (b) a reading disability while the subject is speaking to improve reading comprehension.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising receiving an analog auditory signal of the subject at a first frequency, converting the signal to a digital signal in the frequency domain, altering the frequency of the digital signal within a range of about +/- 2 octaves, converting the signal back to the time domain and into an analog signal, and then administering the frequency altered feedback signal to the subject ~~user~~ proximate in time to the receiving step.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of administering the ~~FAF~~ frequency altered auditory feedback signal comprises using a compact device that includes a housing that is supported by the ear of the user and devoid of external cabling during normal operation, and wherein the administered frequency altered auditory signal is shifted a desired amount within a range of between about +/- 2 octaves.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the device comprises at least one of a behind-the-ear (BTE), in-the-ear (ITE), in-the-canal (ITC) or completely-in- the-canal (CIC) ~~BTE, ITE, ITC, or CIC~~ device.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject has a

diagnosed learning disability ~~disabilities~~ ("LD") , and wherein the step of administering is carried out as a therapeutic treatment to improve reading comprehension and/or writing skills.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is a reading disability or impairment, and wherein the step of administering improves the reading ability and/or comprehension of the subject.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is dyslexia~~

A method for treating dyslexia in a subject having dyslexia, comprising:

administering a frequency altered auditory feedback (FAF) signal as a therapeutic treatment to a subject having dyslexia while the subject is speaking to improve the subject's communication skills.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is attention deficit disorder ("ADD") and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder ("ADHD").~~

A method for treating attention deficit disorder ("ADD") and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder ("ADHD") comprising:

administering a frequency altered auditory feedback (FAF) signal as a therapeutic treatment to the subject having ADD or ADHD while the subject is speaking to improve the subject's communication skills.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is autism.~~

A method for treating a subject having autism comprising:

administering a frequency altered auditory feedback (FAF) signal as a therapeutic treatment to a subject having autism while the subject is speaking to improve the subject's communication skills.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is schizophrenia.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is a progressive degenerative neurological disease.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is Parkinson's disease.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is Alzheimer's disease.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is a brain injury, impairment, or trauma.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is at least one of asphasis, dyspraxia, dysarthria, and dysphasia.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising programmably adjusting the frequency shift alteration.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject is a child of pre-school age.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject is a child of

primary school age.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject is a teenager.

21. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the subject is an adult.

22. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the subject is middle aged.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the subject is elderly.

24. (Original) A method for treating subjects having non-stuttering pathologies or disorders presenting with an impairment or dysfunction in communication skills using frequency altered auditory feedback, comprising:

(a) positioning an ear-supported device devoid of external cabling during normal operation and configured to receive auditory signals associated with a subject's speech, in close proximity to at least one ear of an individual, the device being adapted to be in communication with at least one of the ear canals of the individual;

(b) receiving in the device an audio signal associated with the subject's speech;

(c) generating from the device a frequency altered auditory feedback signal having an associated frequency shift between about +/- 2 octaves relative to the received audio signal; and

(d) transmitting the frequency altered auditory feedback signal to at least one ear canal of the subject.

25. (Original) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is Parkinson's disease, and wherein the positioning and transmitting steps are

carried out to provide a therapeutic treatment to improve the communication skills of the subject.

26. (Original) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is autism, and wherein the positioning and transmitting steps are carried out to provide a therapeutic treatment to improve the communication skills of the subject.

27. (Original) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is a reading disability or disorder, and wherein the positioning and transmitting steps are carried out to provide a therapeutic treatment to improve the reading skills of the subject.

28. (Original) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is aphasis, and wherein the positioning and transmitting steps are carried out to provide a therapeutic treatment to improve the communication skills of the subject.

29. (Original) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is dysarthria, and wherein the positioning and transmitting steps are carried out to provide a therapeutic treatment to improve the communication skills of the subject.

30. (Original) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is dyspraxia, and wherein the positioning and transmitting steps are carried out to provide a therapeutic treatment to improve the communication skills of the subject.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject <u>has</u> ~~non-stuttering pathology is~~ a diagnosed learning disability ("LD"), and the steps of ~~positioning and~~ transmitting <u>is</u> ~~are~~ performed as a therapeutic treatment to promote improved learning.

32. (Original) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering

pathology is a reading disability or impairment, and wherein the steps of positioning and transmitting are carried out to provide a therapeutic treatment to improve the reading ability of the subject.

33. (Original) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is attention deficit disorder ("ADD") and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder ("ADHD").

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is schizophrenia, and wherein the steps of positioning and transmitting are carried out as a therapeutic treatment to improve the communication skills of the subject.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is a progressive degenerative neurological disease, and wherein the steps of positioning and transmitting are carried out as a therapeutic treatment to improve the communication skills of the subject.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 35, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is Alzheimer's disease.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject non-stuttering pathology is a brain injury, impairment, or trauma, and wherein the steps of positioning and transmitting are carried out as a therapeutic treatment to improve the communication skills of the subject.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, further comprising programmably adjusting the frequency alteration at desired intervals.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the subject is a

child of pre-school age.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the subject is a child of primary school age.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the subject is a teenager.

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the subject is an adult.

43. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the subject is elderly.

44. (Currently Amended) A device for treating non-stuttering and non-fluency pathologies having impaired or decreased communication skills and/or a reading disability to improve reading comprehension, comprising:

means for administering a frequency altered auditory feedback signal to a subject having a non-stuttering non-fluency related pathology and/or (b) a reading disability while the subject is speaking and/or talking to thereby improve the subject's communication skills and/or reading comprehension.

45. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 44, further comprising:

means for receiving an analog auditory signal of the subject at a first frequency;

means for converting the signal to a digital signal in the frequency domain;

means for altering the frequency of the digital signal within a range of about +/- 2 octaves;

means for converting the signal back to the time domain and into an analog signal; and

means for administering the frequency altered feedback signal to the user proximate in time to the receiving step.

46. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 44, wherein the means for administering the FAF signal comprises a portable compact device with at least one housing that is supported by the ear of the user and devoid of external cabling during normal operation, and wherein the altered auditory frequency is shifted a desired amount within a range of between about +/- 2 octaves.

47. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 46, wherein the device comprises at least one of a behind-the-ear (BTE), in-the-ear (ITE), in-the-canal (ITC) or completely-in- the-canal (CIC) ~~BTE, ITE, ITC, or CIC~~ device.

48. (Currently Amended) A portable device for treating non-stuttering non-fluency related pathologies having communication impairments and/or a reading disability to improve comprehension comprising:

(a) a housing configured to be supported by the head or ear of a user, the housing having opposing distal and proximal surfaces, wherein at least said proximal surface is configured for positioning in the ear canal of a user;

(b) a signal processor contained within said housing, said signal processor comprising:

(i) a receiver, said receiver generating an input signal responsive to an auditory signal associated with the user's speech;

(ii) frequency altered auditory feedback circuitry operably associated with the receiver for generating a frequency altered auditory signal; and

(iii) a transmitter contained within said housing and operably associated with said frequency altered auditory feedback circuitry for transmitting a frequency altered auditory signal to the user; and

(c) a power source operatively associated with said signal processor for supplying power thereto,

wherein the device is adapted for use by a user having (a) a non-fluency non-stuttering

related pathology to improve communication skills and/or (b) a reading disability to improve reading comprehension.

49. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 48, wherein said device comprises an in-the-ear (ITE) ~~ITE~~ housing.

50. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 48, wherein said device comprises an in-the-canal (ITC) ~~ITC~~ housing.

51. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 48, wherein said device comprises a completely-in-the-canal (CIC) ~~CIC~~ housing.

52. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 48, wherein said device comprises a behind-the-ear (BTE) ~~BTE~~ housing.

53. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein said signal processor is a digital programmable signal processor having externally adjustable frequency shifts.

54. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the signal processor is a digital signal processor, and wherein said receiver is a microphone, and wherein said microphone is integrated into the digital signal processor.

55. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein said frequency altered auditory feedback circuitry provides a frequency shift within a range of between about +/- 2 octaves.

56. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the device is a therapeutic device used to treat a progressive neurological degenerative disease.

57. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 56, wherein the device is a therapeutic device used to treat Parkinson's disease.

58. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the device is a therapeutic device used to treat autism.

59. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the device is a therapeutic device to treat [[a]] the reading disability~~, impairment, or disorder~~ to improve comprehension.

60. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the device is a therapeutic device used to treat at least one of aphasis, dysarthria, dyspraxia, or a brain injury to improve the communication skills of the user.

61. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~Claim~~ Claim 48, wherein the device is a therapeutic device configured to treat a diagnosed learning disability.

62. (Currently Amended) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the device is a therapeutic device configured to treat attention deficit disorder (ADD) ~~ADD~~ and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) ~~ADHD~~.

63. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~Claim~~ Claim 48, wherein the device is configured and sized to be insertable into the ear of a child of primary school age.

64. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the device is configured and sized to be insertable into the ear of a child of preschool age.

65. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the device is configured and sized to be insertable into the ear of a teenager.

66. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 48, wherein the device is configured and sized to be insertable into the ear of an adult.

67. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 66, wherein the device is configured and sized to be insertable into the ear of a senior citizen.

68. (New) A method for treating subjects having an impaired reading ability and/or reading disorder to improve reading comprehension, comprising:

receiving an analog auditory speech signal of a subject having an impaired reading ability and/or reading disorder;

converting the received signal to a digital signal in a frequency domain;

shifting frequency of the digital signal within a range of about +/- 2 octaves;

converting the shifted signal to a time domain and into an analog signal; then

transmitting the analog signal as a frequency altered auditory feedback signal to the subject while the subject is reading aloud to improve the subject's reading comprehension.

69. (New) A method according to Claim 68, wherein the subject has a diagnosed reading disability such that the subject reads at a level that is below a defined standard or norm, and wherein the step of transmitting is carried out as a therapeutic treatment to improve reading comprehension.